

Flowering Rush Treatment Info

Flowering rush is an aquatic plant found along lakeshores and slow-moving rivers, and in water up to 9 feet deep. Although it resembles a true rush, flowering-rush is in its own family and can be distinguished by its attractive pink flowers. Flowering rush competes with native wetland and shoreline vegetation and can crowd out more desirable species. It has two growth forms. In shallow water or along shorelines, plants have stiff, upright leaves. In deeper water, the plants grow submerged and have flexible floating leaves that reach the surface and move with the water. Due to the fact flowering rush is a relatively new invasive species to the Northwestern Ohio area, limited treatment info is available, however recent tests conducted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area have proven to be somewhat effective.

Trials consisted of drying wetland units in mid/late June which usually stops or stunts growth followed by a round of herbicide application. Flowering rush was sprayed with either a 5% solution of glyphosate (a more general approach) or imazapyr . Spraying with imazapyr resulted in almost a “desert” type effect however when reseeded afterwards, native flora began to appear. Reseeding also seemed to put added stress on the flowering rush still present. These methods have been effective in the short term, however it will take a couple years to see the true effectiveness. Other trials consisted of discing an area and then spraying, which showed no significant increase in kill off.

For more information on current trends or advancements in flowering rush treatment in Northwest Ohio, please contact:

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